

## HONORING NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD CLASSROOMS

This is the time of year when children typically learn about Native Americans as participants in the first Thanksgiving. Such a narrow focus can inadvertently lead children to think of American Indians only as figures from the past. With heightened sensitivity and a broader scope of resources, there are many ways to share year-round with children about the rich diversity and contributions of Native American cultures.

The following web sites provide a variety of ideas and resources to use in learning more about Native Americans:

- ❖ **Teaching Young Children about Native Americans** by Debbie Reese  
<http://ericeece.org/pubs/digests/1996/reese96.html>

This article includes insightful and valuable teaching suggestions, positive strategies, and practices to avoid. The author is a Pueblo Indian who studies and works in the field of early childhood education.

- ❖ **Native Americans: A Resource List For Teaching To Or About Native Americans** developed by Debbie Reese and Jean Mendoza  
<http://scils.rutgers.edu/~kvander/ChildrenLit/nalist.html>

This site provides a list of recommended children's literature, music, and videos as well as professional resources for learning about Native Americans.

- ❖ **North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs** (NC Department of Administration)  
<http://www.doa.state.nc.us/doa/cia/indian.htm>

This site provides a calendar of events, information about North Carolina's Indian tribes and organizations, and links to related resources.